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Emp 2163



PATENT
22845.040

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:
HIROSHI MURAKAMI, ET AL.

Serial No. 09/348,515

Filed: July 7, 1999

For: SHARED VEHICLE SYSTEM AND
METHOD FOR ALLOCATING
VEHICLES BASED ON STATE OF
CHARGE

Group Art Unit: 2163

Examiner: M. Irshadullah

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Technology Center 2100

Los Angeles, California
April 5, 2002

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C., 20231

This is in response to the Office Action mailed December 5, 2001. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), petition to extend the time to respond up to one month, including April 5, 2002, is filed herewith.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111 and 1.121, kindly amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Substitute the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 12 with the following:

According to yet another aspect of the invention, a shared vehicle system and method involves allocating vehicles from a group of available vehicles and returning vehicles to the group upon detection of a parking state while the vehicle is located at a port. A port is a vehicle staging area where the vehicles may be parked prior to being allocated to a user. A typical port contains a user kiosk containing a computer terminal